

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04

AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 125658

O P 311552Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8436

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION BERLIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15750

BERLIN FOR AMBASSADOR: VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR DATA

REF: (A) STATE 211555, (B) U.S.NATO 5213, (C) U.S. NATO  
5223, (D) BONN 15561 (LIMDIS)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, WE HAVE BEEN  
PRESSING FONOFF AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO  
SUPPORT USE OF KEY FIGURES WITH THE EAST IN MBFR  
NEGOTIATIONS AND WITH THE PRESS. FONOFF REPS ARE  
SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL ABOUT USING SUCH PRECISE FIGURES  
AT THIS TIME BUT ARE PREPARED TO SUPPORT US WITHIN  
THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, NATO AND AD HOC GROUP; MOVING  
DEFENSE MINISTRY MILITARY EXPERTS HAS PROVED TO BE A  
SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TASK. AS OF NOON OCT 31, FRG  
HAS ENDORSED FIVE OF THE SIX KEY FIGURES, EXCLUDING  
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WP TANK FIGURES, FOR USE WITH THE EAST AND, GIVEN

CONSENSUS OF VIENNA AHG, WITH THE PRESS. FONOFF HOPES TO GAIN DEFMIN ACCEPTANCE OF WP TANK FIGURES IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOR THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS, WE HAVE BEEN PRESSING FONOFF AND DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THE U.S. POSITION ON THE USE OF THE SIX FIGURES (STATE 209532 AS AMENDED IN 209615) IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST AND BY OCT 31 WITH THE PRESS. EMBOFF HAS BEEN ADVANCING THIS U.S. POSITION IN THE FONOFF WITH RUTH AND THE RECENTLY RETURNED DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH; IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY, OUR POSITION HAS BEEN SET FORTH WITH PLANNING STAFF DEPUTY CHIEF STEINHAUS,

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SCHMIDTBAUER. AS INSTRUCTED, THE U.S. MEMO ON MBFR DATA IN REF A ALSO PROVIDED APPROPRIATE FONOFF AND DEFMIN OFFICIALS.

2. THE FONOFF ATTITUDE HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE. WHILE PERSONALLY VOICING SKEPTICISM CONCERNING THE ABILITY OF ANY FIGURES TO SURVIVE MORE THAN THREE MONTHS OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADOR ROTH HAS AT OUR REQUEST BEEN SEEKING DEFENSE MINISTRY AGREEMENT TO THE SIX FIGURES AND, FOLLOWING OUR OCT 26 CONVERSATION WITH RUTH (REF D), CONTACTED BRUSSELS IN ORDER TO VOICE DISPLEASURE WITH RANTZAU'S NEGATIVE POSITION IN THE SPC REPORTED IN U.S. NATO 5146. ON THE OTHER HAND, DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN THE MILITARY POLICY AND PLANS STAFF HAVE CONTINUED TO ACCORD CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE OBJECTIVE VALIDITY OF THE NEW AMERICAN FIGURES, AND HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE "AN UNDULY HASTY IMPRIMATEUR." AS A RESULT, RANTZAU'S NEGATIVE POSITION WAS CONVERTED INTO HOFSTETTER'S LACK OF INSTRUCTIONS AT OCT 29 SPC (REF B) AND MOST RECENTLY TO GERMAN WILLINGNESS IN OCT 30 WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8437

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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TO ACCEPT FIVE OF THE SIX--BUT NOT THE WP TANK--  
FIGURES (REF C).

3. GESCHER, FONOFF MBFR DEPT DEPUTY CHIEF, TOLD EMBOFF  
THAT HE HOPED TO OBTAIN DEFINITIVE DEFENSE MINISTRY  
ACCEPTANCE TODAY (OCT 31) OF THE SIX FIGURES FOR USE  
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST.

4. AS TO USE OF THE FIGURES WITH THE PRESS, GESCHER  
SAID THE FONOFF HAS INSTRUCTED ITS MBFR DEL TO GO  
ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY IN THE AD HOC GROUP. FRG MBFR  
DEL HAS BEEN GIVEN GREEN LIGHT TO ACCEPT FIVE OF THE  
SIX FIGURES--BUT NOT THE WP TANK FIGURES--FOR USE  
WITH THE PRESS IF THIS IS THE CONSENSUS IN THE AD HOC  
GROUP. PRESUMABLY, THE GERMANS ALSO WOULD BE PREPARED  
TO ACCEPT USE OF THE SIX FIGURES WITH THE PRESS ONCE  
THAT IS CLEARED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. IT SHOULD  
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BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS GERMAN POSITION IS AN  
EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. WISHES ON THE DATA USE; ROTH  
TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD IN FACT PREFERRED TO STICK WITH  
USE OF RATIOS DEVELOPED IN MBFR WORKING GROUP (U.S.NATO  
5177).

HILLENBRAND

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